# THE SELWYN PROBE

#### TAKING YOU DEEP TO BRING YOU THE HEAT

Monday, November 1, 1999



# SELWYN BEAUTY

#### Probe staff and contributors:

Sebastian Negrete Sasha Mandy

Alex Black Istvan Tokes Editor

Editor

Editor Editor Thanks to Mr. Shannon for guidance



Josh practices for the school dance.

# Come to the Selwyn House School Dance

#### It's the cool thing to do

November 5, 1999, 8:00 to 12:00

Doors Close at 9:30

Black light dance

No tickets sold at the door, so buy now

Admission only \$6

There will be girls

#### **Prefect Profiles**

This weeks Prefect Profiles features the insightful and always witty Vidal Sadaka, Ben Spencer and Orestes Tsoukas. These three are known as the "Three of Seven Prefects."

Vidal is the tall basketball player with good marks. Vidal is known for his sassy remarks and has earned the title of "Diss Master 2000." To give you a taste of his royal sassiness, Vidal can be often heard saying quotes from "The Fresh Prince of Bel-air." According to Vidal, the show is not over and Will Smith is waiting for a renewal of his contract. But don't question him too much about it because then the conversation turns violent. Oh Vidal!

Ben "Big Red" Spencer is the stocky yet agile prefect. He has red hair. Ben is the ideal "jock;" he is a talented team player, well dressed, and strikingly red. Ben's contribution to the prefect repertoire is nothing, he has done nothing. He is the most useless of all the prefects. In fact, I didn't vote for him, did you vote for him? Who the

#%\* voted for him? I love subtlety. I'm sorry, I haven't had my pills yet. Ben is a great prefect and a hell of a man.

Orestes Tsoukas, the outspoken prefect, excels in soccer and academics. Orestes has recently been spotted on the clubbing scene with another prefect. Orestes, one of the twenty Tsoukas' currently in Selwyn house, is the only prefect in the Tsoukas family. He was the brain behind the Senior Dance. He came up with the idea one day when someone asked, "Hey, let's have a senior dance." Only a prefect as smart as he would develop these amazingly fantastical ideas. Thank you, Orestes, and God bless America.

These are your three prefects. I know you will be disappointed that this is the last Prefect Profiles. However, these are such interesting prefects that I don't feel I do them justice. So I thank all eight of you kind enough to read these profiles.

The Greatest Man Alive, Sasha "B.O." Mandy



In an effort to make The Probe not just a joke journal filled with prepubescent humor, we here at The Probe are offering up a piece of education for your reading pleasure. We feel a need to educate the Proletariat, so now go forth and gain wisdom.

#### SHINTO - "THE WAY OF THE GODS" @

Shinto, meaning "The Way of the Gods," is not even a Japanese word but is instead Chinese. The word's sixth century Chinese origin is significant of the huge influence Chinese religion and thought has historically had on Shinto. The rarer, Japanese translations of Shinto are Kami-no-Michi or the slightly more common Kami-nagara-no-Michi, meaning "The Way after the manner of the Gods." Shinto is considered the national, and most popular, religion of the Japanese people, with over 112 million followers in Japan. The other major religions are Buddhism, Christianity, and the New Religions, which have appeared after the Second World War.

Over two thousand years ago, in wave after wave the Japanese islands which had previously only been inhabited by aborigines, began to be conquered by foreign invaders from mainland Asia. One of these groups settled on the island of Kyushu from where they expanded to become the rulers of all of Japan and its main demographic group. As national unity was achieved under these people their religion became the national religion of Japan. Their religion was the beginning of Shinto. They believed they were all descendants from the gods and the royal family was considered descendant from the supreme deity, the Sun-goddess. As the generations passed and Japan's population became increasingly homogeneous the religion of Shinto continued to develop from these humble beginnings. Shinto also borrowed ideas from Taoism and Confucianism. Taoism is deeply rooted in present day Shinto. Unlike Buddhism, it did not become its own religion but instead merged into Shinto. It gave Shinto many of its present superstitious beliefs about time, place, direction (particularly that of north-easterly which is considered evil), lucky days, and many other. Taoism's influence is even eminent in the name Shinto. Taoism in Chinese means "The Way" or "The Path," the same Way as in "The Way of the Gods." Many Confucian ethics were also adopted. Confucianism helped define the idea of filial piety and loyalty, for which words did not even exist in Japanese. It introduced the idea of a hierarchy in human existence, that some races and people were superior to others. Confucianism also justified the necessity of the masses being ruled by a supreme ruler; all of which would be revived with Shinto in the late nineteenth century with disastrous consequences in the twentieth.

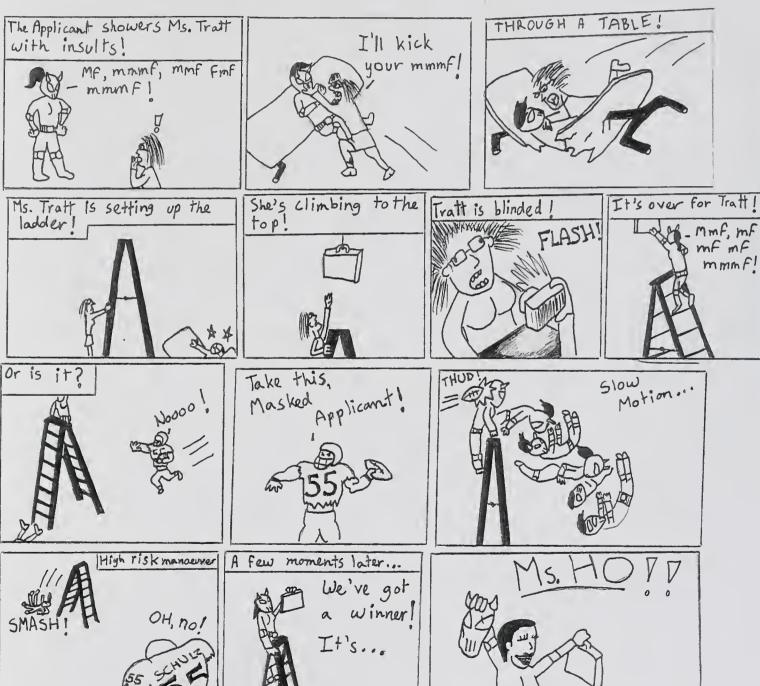
For several centuries Shinto remained the second religion to Buddhism in Japan. During most of that period, it was supported by the government and had places of worship throughout the kingdom. But unlike Buddhism, Shinto was never made the state religion. Buddhism was the religion of the intellectuals and of the royal court. For several centuries Shinto remained the second religion to Buddhism. In the ninth century a Japanese intellectual by the name of Kobo Daishi essentially merged Shinto into Buddhism.

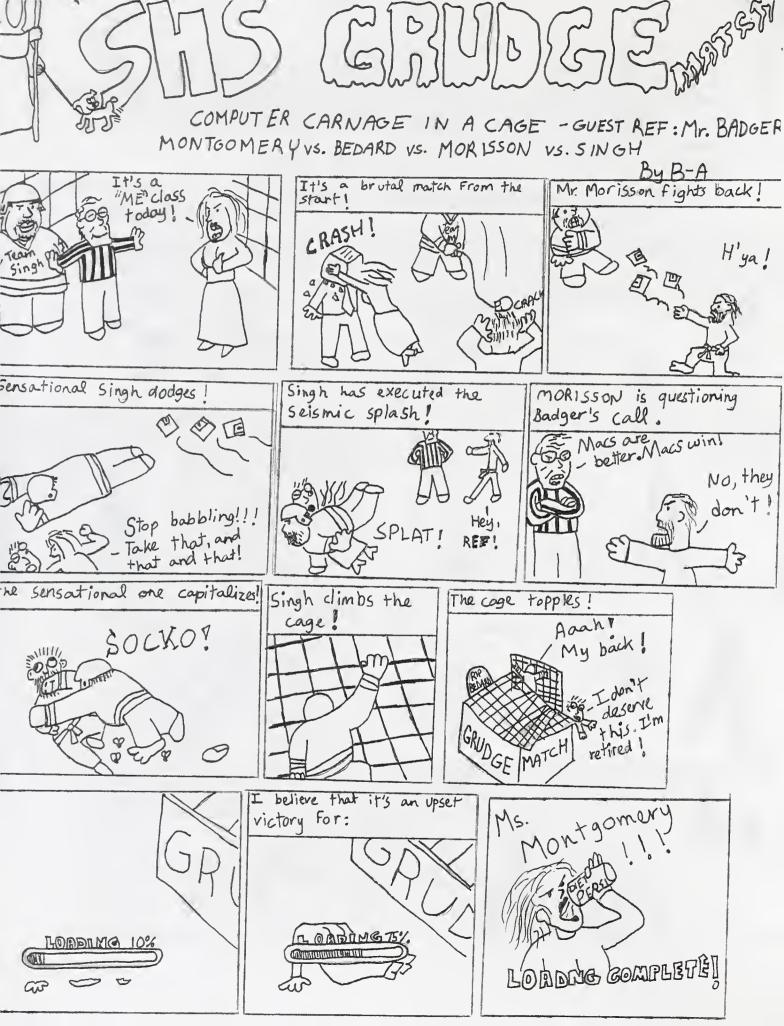
Today, Shinto is made up of thirteen major sects and many smaller ones. These sects can be divided into five main areas of belief: those who follow the doctrine of ancient Shinto; those who follow Confucian ideas; those that believe in faith healing; those sects that worship the mountains; and those devoted to purification rites. With over 112 million members, combined Shinto seems to be thriving. But religion is changing in Japan. Only 3.4 million of those Japanese consider Shinto to be their sole or main religion. Since in Japanese culture it is considered normal to be active in multiple religions at once, many of those 112 million are also Buddhist and Christian. As well, Japanese are also taking religion less and less seriously, often just going through the motions and rituals but not really believing in their power. Shinto has been forced to adapt before and will do so again, as all religions are being forced to do in the modern information age.



# By B-A

Ms. Tratt vs. The Masked Applicant-Ladder Match for the position of Publications Director.





# Probe Q & A

While walking through the halls of Selwyn, many of you, the readers, have asked us questions. So, rather than talking to you in person, we would rather answer your questions on paper. So, here they are:

Q1: Where do you get your fantastic ideas for articles? I especially enjoyed the one in the most recent "The New Yorker."

- Bored in Beaconsfield

A1: Well, thank you "Bored." We'll ignore your misspelling of "The Probe." Istvan gets his ideas for "SHS Grudge Match" from home-made tapes of the WWF dating back to 1979. He can also communicate with rodents on the outskirts of Montreal. Seb has not written an article yet so he can't answer. Alex rummages through Mr. Nicoll's old essays. Sasha, well, no one really knows.

**Q2:** Do you smell what the Rock is cookin'?

- Chris "Anonymous" Brown

A2: We don't really understand the question. Please don't ever write to us again.

O3: Why do you freaks do this every two weeks?

- Burn in Hell Editors

A3: Well, that's disturbing.

Q4: How do you fellows keep up your girlish good looks?

- S.B.Q.M.

**A4:** Sasha, don't write anymore questions. This is for readers only.

Q5: Guys, write two essays on how Cheever justifies the abysmal sacrifices Francis Weed endures to establish an auspicious disposition towards the suburban vicissitude.

- Patty

A5: Mr. Shannon, that's not even a question! We'll hand it in on Monday.

Hope we've answered all your questions, or at least four of them. Please feel free to ask us more. Submit them to us in the E3 waste recycle bin.

- Alex, Istvan, Sasha, Sebastian

### SELWYN INDEX

- 1. Number of "whacky" noises from Mr. Glasspoole per class: 136
- 2. Number of people who know what he's talking about: 1 (Goldberg)
- 3. Number of current grade 10's who remember Stratford: 21
- 4. Ratio of Ti83 to Casio graphics: 22:4
- 5. Number of people passing math with flying colors: 4
- 6. Number of people blowing off math class by playing their Ti83's: 22
- 7. Number of prefects who promised to contribute to "The Probe:" 6
- 8. Number of prefects who have contributed so far this year: 0

IN	OUT
Death of a Salesman	Maxim
Brains	Red eye
Asian Invasion	W.O.P.
Ti-83 plus	French class
Ti-83 plus	Memorizing
Selwyn Dances	Clubbing
Munzar	All jocks
Brown's 3 day week	Ditching School
Trevor's Mustang	Shiller's driver

# **CLASSIFIED ADS**

Left-over biology experiments

-Normand

The other half of a brain

-Ed

A goatee

-Thompson

A two-four of Molson Ex.

-The Downey brothers

Hot pants

-Istvan (EDITOR'S NOTE: He made us put that in.)